

Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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News

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION



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MONTANA LIBRARIES AND PROPERTY TAXES

One issue to be decided on the November ballot is CI-27, a proposal to abolish property taxes in the state of Montana. This issue has caused great concern and debate; certainly, it has gotten people all over the state involved, which is good for the political process. An alternative proposal is CI-105 which would freeze property taxes at their present rate.

Property taxes currently are a funding source for libraries in Montana. In fiscal year 1986, local tax income supplied 88.95% of local public libraries' funding. This was through designated property tax levies or through general city or county funds based on income from property taxes. 120 of Montana's public libraries receive their funds to operate from local government sources. Only two libraries have other sources of income greater than those received from local taxes. 61 of the public libraries have less than \$5,000 in other income.

If CI-27 were to pass and local communities were not able to find new sources of funds to operate

libraries, public libraries would lose \$5,526,952 based on 1986 income. Most public libraries in the state would be forced to close. Montana spends \$7.54 per capita for local public library service. This is \$1.52 less than the national average of \$9.06. CI-27 would lower this to \$5.84. CI-105 would freeze the expenditure and without other funding, Montana libraries would fall further and further behind the national average. As the cost of library service rises, new cuts would be required.

Public school libraries would be affected also. School districts in Montana receive 100% of their tax revenue from property taxes. School libraries would be affected by curtailment of public school programs in all districts.

Academic libraries would feel the effects of funding cuts. The six university system libraries and the three community college libraries are partially supported by the statewide property tax levy for the university system and the special levies for Flathead, Miles City and Dawson Community Colleges.

No state has ever abolished property taxes. Some

states have cut or lowered property taxes. Initiatives in California and Massachusetts limited property taxes, but did not eliminate them. California had a four-billion dollar surplus when Proposition 13 was passed. Very little of this surplus reached libraries. Hours were reduced 20%; materials budgets were reduced 20%; 21% of personnel funds were lost, and 1,226 public library employees were laid off. School libraries were also hard hit. In Massachusetts, libraries and recreation departments suffered more than other agencies. The result was staff layoffs, shorter hours and smaller collections. In Massachusetts, school libraries were hit harder than public libraries. There were severe budget reductions and many school libraries either disappeared or had to be staffed by volunteers. The experience in both states is that under a general limitation on property taxes, libraries suffer more than other services.

Report from
Debbie Schesinger
Montana Library Association

VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET AVAILABLE

The Secretary of State's office is offering the Voter Information Pamphlet free of charge to eligible voters. The pamphlet contains information on how to vote, where to vote, and how to register. It also contains information on the rights of voters and the responsibilities of candidates. The pamphlet is available in English and Spanish. To receive a free copy, call the Secretary of State's office at (202) 724-2600. The pamphlet will be mailed to you within 10 days of your request.

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MULTILIBRARY CARD REPORT

Georgia's latest report on the Multilibrary Card Project, coordinated by the Atlanta City Public Library, continues to work well. To date, no participants have reported any problems. Users are enthusiastic and have continued to sign up. Libraries have accepted the service as an important activity and are excited about the expanded service. At least one other town library has begun to use it. The project will be completed following the end of the grant. The possibility of continuing service as an independent project is being explored. The project is a success story for the Atlanta City Public Library and the Georgia Federation of Library Associations. Those who are unable to attend will be served with video.

The Georgia Public Library Association will be holding a meeting on the project in the near future.

MULTILIBRARY CARD STATISTICS

	August	Total
Number of users registered	104	693
Number of items borrowed	342	1,299
Number of items returned by mail	46	372
Number of items returned by mail	144	336
Cost of mail return	\$65.00	\$162.75
Number of items returned by mail	\$ 5.31	\$ 3.73



Montana delegation for the Kellogg Grant met at Logan, Utah in August. Pictured left to right are Hansu Roddy, Hamilton Community Info. Spec.; Lucille Gordon, Hamilton Public Library; John Thomas, Montana State Library; Karen Locke, Libby Community Info. Spec.; Glen Wilde, Utah State University; Bryan Spikerman, Regional Project Dir.; and Dr. Alan Goodman, Montana State University.

INSTITUTIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The following is a list of recommendations from the Institutional Needs Assessment Committee. This report was presented to the Montana State Library Advisory Council on July 31, 1980.

1. A joint statement or cooperative agreement between the Department of Administration and the Montana State Library be developed to define standard policy for library services to institutions. Sub-policies should be developed for individual institutions.

2. A consortium of libraries in the Deer Lodge Valley should be formed which would include Warm Springs Campus, Galen Campus, Women's Correctional Center and possibly the public libraries. This would help to strengthen the program already in place.

To implement this consortium as rapidly as possible, it is recommended grant funds be made available to hire a coordinator.

When this consortium is operational it could be used as a model for other institutional libraries.

3. & 4. A handbook for institutional administrators and librarians should be written in simple, understandable language. A three-day training workshop based on the handbook should be held for librarians with one-day involvement of administrators.

5. The State Librarian should ensure that state library personnel make at least one visit per year to all institutional libraries.

6. A one-day meeting be held at which institutional librarians could discuss the Needs Assessment and give feedback to the Council.

7. Montana State Library should include a column in its newsletter devoted to institutions to educate people about institutional library service. All administrators should be on the mailing list.

8. Montana State Library Commission at its next retreat should consider what priority for institutional programs is appropriate versus the other programs of the agency.

9. The Advisory Council as it considers Library services and construction Act Grant funds should consider making base line improvements from grants. The State Library should review and update the contracts with each public library that now serves institutions and report to the Council.

10. A Long Range Plan should be written for institutions with continual updating. Opportunities for continuing education should be written into this plan. The State Library should work closely with the Department of Institutions on the Long Range Plan.

11. Professional libraries in institutions should be evaluated and appropriate arrangements made in accordance with the needs of the individual institutions.

AROUND THE STATE

Western Montana College at Dillon has a new Assistant Librarian, Nick Koenig. He is a Great Falls

native and former information specialist at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The Montana Historical Society Library, now led, headed by David Birchler, Archives by Sue Jackson, Photo Archives by Larry Morrow, and Oral History by Laurie Ventner. The administrator of these four programs in the Archives and Library Division is Bob Clark. This library was closed Saturday morning until Memorial Day. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed on Wednesday, holiday weekends. If researchers wish to use photographic or manuscript material, arrangements should be made ahead.

Kuhn, a Great Falls Public Radio Station, has begun a reading service for the print handicapped. The program is a retransmission of Western Montana Radio Reading Service in Missoula. It operates from 4 to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any person living within a radius of 60 miles of Great Falls who is print handicapped may use the service. A special receiver may be obtained at no cost by calling the Great Falls Public Library, (403-6349) and identifying yourself as print handicapped.

John Inomas has left his position in Library Development and Reference at Montana State Library to work at Carroll College as a reference and inter-library loan librarian.

1,250 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of 20¢ per copy, for a total cost of \$250.00, which includes \$250.00 for printing and \$ 00 for distribution.

Take
note!

The 14th Annual Conference of the Montana Library Association will be held April 29th - May 2nd, 1987 at the Copper King Inn in Butte. It will be a full 3 1/2 day conference with more continuing education workshops available. To schedule time on the program or for more information, contact conference co-chairs by December 1st.

They are:

Sue Nissen
1722 Farragut
Butte, MT 59701

Julia Shepard
504 W. Placerville
Butte, MT 59701

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you having trouble finding answers for all the questions you ask the library? Look for the new edition of the Montana Library Directory, 1987-88, available for \$10.00. It is the most complete listing of libraries in Montana. The new edition is available for \$10.00. The new edition is available for \$10.00.

and available from Western Library Network; Mail stop AD-11W; Olympia, WA 98504-0111 at a cost of \$4.00. The directory will be updated again in January, 1987 to correspond with the new Resource Directory.

School library media professionals in each state are encouraged to nominate an outstanding administrator for the Distinguished Library Service Award for School Administrators.

This Award, made by the American Association of School Librarians annually, is given to an administrator of a school or group of schools for developing an exemplary school library media program and for having made an outstanding and sustained contribution advancing the role of the school library media center. It is given for the achievement of excellence.

Copies of the nomination form may be requested from the American Association of School Librarians Office, 1000 North Dearborn in Chicago, IL 60610-4431. The deadline for completed nominations is February 1, 1987.

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWSHIPS

The President's Commission on White House Fellowships is accepting applications for the 1987-88 year. Deadline is December 15, 1986.

This fellowship offers Americans early in their careers an opportunity to serve for one year in Federal government. They work as special assistants, participate in an education program, and attend meetings. Leadership, ability, and commitment to public service are the broad criteria. For more information, contact Sheila Gates, Montana State Library.



Montana State Library News

Montana State Library
1000 North Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60610-4431
(312) 467-4431

Montana State Library Commission

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(312) 467-4431

Alvin Randall, Librarian

Libby Senior High School
150 Education Way
Libby, MT 59923

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FOR
MONTANA LIBRARY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT (LSCA) GRANTS

Sub-Chapter Montana Library Services Advisory Council

The Montana Library Services Advisory Council is created by the Montana State Library Commission with the approval of the Governor in accordance with the provisions of MCA 2-15-122.

The Council shall advise the Montana State Library Commission on the development and well-being of libraries in Montana; represent the views and opinions of citizens, library users and librarians to the Montana State Library Commission; gather information and make recommendations to the Montana State Library Commission; advise the Montana State Library Commission on the Library Services and Construction Act Program, including but not limited to the development of the State Plan and its administration, the long-range and annual programs and the evaluation of library program services and activities under the state plan.

The composition of the Council shall be eighteen members. Seventeen shall serve for two years and may be reappointed for a second term. Represented on the Council shall be: users of public library services in each federation area, disadvantaged persons, local public libraries, school libraries, academic libraries, special libraries, library service to the institutionalized, library service to the disabled, state employees, state agency libraries, Montana participation in WCHLIST (White House Conference on Libraries), and the Montana Legislature. The president of the Montana Library Association shall serve a one-year term on the Council during the presidency of the Association.

The Council shall have the authority to establish by-laws for its internal operation. These by-laws may not conflict with MCA _____, the Library Services Construction Act, its rules and regulations, and the EDGAR regulations governing programs of the U.S. Office of Education, or with policies established by the Montana State Library Commission.

Sub-Chapter Grants to Libraries
Under the Library Services and Construction Act

The Montana State Library Commission shall make available for libraries and library projects, funds under the Library Services and Construction Act as appropriated by the Montana Legislature. The Montana Library Services Advisory Council shall be in accord with the purposes of the individual titles of the Library Services and Construction Act. These are Title I, Public Library Services - the extension of library services to citizens without services or inadequately served

because of distances, physical handicaps or other disadvantages; Title II, Public Library Construction - construction of new facilities and remodeling of facilities to improve energy conservation and meet standards, particularly access for the handicapped; Title III, interlibrary cooperation - the coordination of resources of school, public, academic and special libraries and the establishment and operation of local, regional and interstate cooperative networks.

_____ The Council may recommend to the Commission to make funds available through designated projects or through limited calls for proposals to accompany particular objectives or general improvement in library services for residents of Montana or through open competitions for which all libraries shall be eligible as defined in the request for proposals.

_____ In making recommendations to the Commission, the Montana Library Services Advisory Council shall use the current long-range planning document and shall recommend to the Commission priorities based on the long-range plan.

_____ The Council shall recommend to the Commission the available funds to be used, whether a specific project should be developed or an open or limited competition held and a timeframe for the project.

_____ The Council shall encourage participation of libraries and all citizens of Montana on recommended uses for funds under the Library Services and Construction Act.

_____ Prior to the fall meeting of the Council, the Montana State Library shall announce to libraries the intent of the Council to receive concepts for projects under the Library Services and Construction Act grant funds. The library shall encourage submission of ideas for consideration and shall summarize the ideas received for the fall Council meeting. The Council have preliminary discussion on the uses of the funds at its fall meeting and shall identify those in which there is significant interest for further development. Following the fall meeting, the Montana State Library shall publicize these to the library community and citizens of the state and shall solicit specific proposals for the Council's discussion at its winter meeting. The Council shall make its decision on the recommendations for use of the funds and shall present this to the Montana State Library Commission at its meeting at the Montana Library Association Conference.

Sub-Chapter Limited and Open Competitions for LSCA Grants

_____ Upon approval by the Montana State Library Commission, the State Librarian shall submit the proposed project to the U.S. Office of Education. Upon its approval, the State Librarian shall issue a limited or open call for proposal. This call shall include the goals and objectives to be accomplished, who is eligible to apply, the procedures for the project and the procedures by which application may be made and the criteria by which competitive grants will be awarded. Libraries, or individuals, or agencies responding to the call shall include in the response a method of evaluation for the project.

_____ If instructed by the Council, the State Librarian and staff of the Montana State Library shall conduct a preliminary screening of proposals dividing those into eligible and not eligible.

_____ The Council may appoint a special committee or use a standing committee or may itself as a whole determine what they will recommend for funding based on the criteria used in the request for proposals.

_____ The Council shall rank all proposals in priority for funding and rejection. This determination shall be based on the stated criteria and a rationale for the determination be prepared.

_____ The Council shall present its recommendation to the Montana State Library Commission.

_____ The dates, times and agenda of the Council and Commission shall be made known to all who submit grant applications. The recommendation being made shall be made known to those who submit grant applications.

_____ Upon action by the Commission, the State Librarian shall notify those who are awarded a grant and those whose proposals are not funded. The notification shall include the reasons why proposals are not funded. The State Librarian shall inform those not receiving grants of the appeal process available to them.

_____ The State Librarian shall prepare a contract with that library, individual or agency which received an LSCA grant. The contract shall contain assurances, the responsibilities of the grantee, the responsibilities of the State Library Commission, a payment schedule, and assurances that the statutes of Montana, its administrative rules and regulations, and appropriate federal requirements are met.

Sub-Chapter Appeals Process for Denial
of a Grant by the Montana State Library Commission

_____ The State Library Commission has adopted the Attorney General's Model Rules of Administrative Procedure, as set forth in ARM, Title I, Chapter 3, with the proviso that a hearing on denial of an application for a grant of Library Services and Construction Act funds may be conducted under the Commission's rule _____, or in the alternative, under the model rules of contested case hearings.

_____ Any person or group submitting a proposal for grant funds to the Montana State Library Commission shall have the right to appeal if the proposal is not funded. The request for the appeal shall be made to the Montana State Librarian at 1515 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620 (444-3115) within _____ working days of the denial of the grant.

_____ Upon receiving a notice of appeal, the State Librarian, acting on behalf of the Commission, shall convene an independent review committee. The committee shall be composed as follows: a representative named by the appellant who is not from the appellant's library or governing authority; a representative chosen by the chair of the Montana Library Services

Advisory Council, who is not a Council member; a representative from the library community who is not connected to the appellant, named by the chairman of the Citizens and Trustees Division of the Montana Library Association.

The independent review committee shall hear the appeal based on procedures which it shall determine. Both the appellant and the State Librarian shall have equal opportunity to present testimony either in writing or orally and to respond to points raised by the other party. The independent review committee shall make its findings and recommendations to the Montana State Library Commission shall take final action on the appeal. The Commission can affirm, deny, or modify the recommendation of the independent review committee.

The State Librarian, upon final determination of the appeal by the Commission, shall notify the appellant in writing. This notice shall conclude the appeals process.